

Remarks

This is in response to the Office Action of January 5, 2007 constituting a requirement for election of species.

Initially, species (1) and (2) at the bottom of page 2 of the Office Action are identical to each other. Considering claim 1 of the present application, it is apparent that the Examiner meant to refer to a semi-synthetic water-~~insoluble~~ polymer compound as species 1).

Accordingly, for each of species 1) to 5), in the paragraph bridging pages 2-3 of the Office Action, Applicants make the following elections:

- 1) hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalate (see page 26, lines 3-4 of the specification);
- 2) hydroxypropyl cellulose (see page 26, line 2 from the bottom);
- 3) polyvinyl pyrrolidone (see page 27, line 17);
- 4) polyethylene glycol (see page 28, lines 3-4); and
- 5) sodium hydroxide (see page 28, line 12).

Applicants emphasize that these elections are made while reserving their rights under 35 U.S.C. §121 to file a divisional application for the non-elected subject matter.

All of original claims 1-13 read on the elected species.

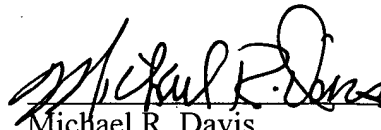
New claim 14 has been added to the application, and is directed to all of the elected species. Therefore, claim 14 also reads on the elected species.

Action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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